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# Our Voice

The spare change newspaper



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## GEORDIE & WHISKERS

Sandra Stevenson of Leduc wins Best Overall in the Our Voice Photo Contest.

PAGE

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## STUDENTS EAT

And so do their children  
Calgary students' food bank.



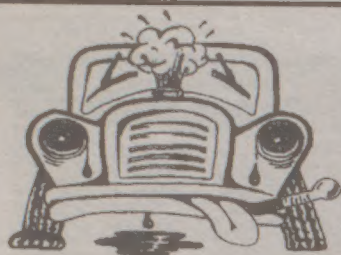
# Spare Change

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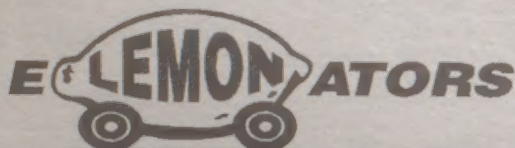


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**NEWS • of the World**

## Watch out for deadly do-it-yourselfers

Other than blind-folded bomb disposal, few activities have such a high disaster potential as do-it-yourself house repairs. Witness Roger Stanley, 46, of Pudsey, Orkshire, who blew every fuse in his house trying to rig up some fairy lights. Mr Stanley, however is a paragon of excellence compared to Greek home improvement fanatic Donis Pappandropholous. Mr Pappandropholous, 43, of Thessaloniki, first displayed his technical mastery in 1986 when he killed his mother while rewiring her electrical

stair lift. Since then he has blown up one house while mending a gas leak, burnt down another by installing faulty solar panels on the roof, and put up "enough collapsing shelves to fill a library." His pièce de resistance, however, came when, in an effort to unblock his lavatory with a small stick of dynamite, he destroyed not only his own apartment, but the entire block of which it was a part. "I am a man of few words and many disasters," he admitted coyly. ♦

## Don't go after the devil in a red suit

Good news for believers! According to a survey in North Carolina, going to church is good for your health. "Take prayer, not Prozac," advised one researcher. There are exceptions, however, as discovered by born-again Christian, Urban Spout when he was physically assaulted by Reverend Michael Moon in front of a cheering congregation. Mr Spout, 23, of Texas, was dressed as the devil, when the attack occurred. "I had a red satin tail and a small plastic trident," he explained. "The idea was to show people how to deal with the powers of evil." Things

began innocuously enough, with Reverend Moon denouncing Lucifer and seizing Spout's trident. As he warmed to his task, however, he began to poke Spout in the belly before punching him in the face with a cry of "Let my people go!" "I fell to the floor and said 'Please, you're hurting me!'" recalled Mr Spout. "But he just shouted 'Satan is defeated -' and hit me with an electric guitar. Everybody cheered." "I guess I got a little carried away," said Reverend Moon. "Jesus has that affect on you." ♦

## People smells causing great hazards

A recent government report has confirmed what most of us knew anyway - smelly people are bad for the environment. According to the study, malodorous citizens significantly add to the amount of atmospheric ammonia, which causes air pollution and acid rain. "The smellier you are, the greater the damage," opined the experts. One man who wouldn't argue, is Russian Anatoly Mussin, recently arrested for attacking a man who broke wind beside him on a flight from Moscow to Volgograd. Mr Mussin, 41, was settling into his seat when his neighbor leaned

forward and let rip. "It sounded like a car with a cracked exhaust," he recalled. "The smell was quite nauseating. I said 'Please don't do that!' but he just laughed and said, 'Listen!' and then did another one." According to fellow passengers, Mr Mussin was heard to cry "Is there a dead animal up your bottom!" before attacking his neighbour and trying to strangle him. He was restrained by stewards and spent the rest of the flight tied to a seat in first class. "The gas drove me mad," he explained. ♦

## Walk a mile, wear a bra, for a job?

Some people will go to extreme lengths to find employment, as demonstrated by Chris Owens, 26, of Gwent, who walked 144 miles to land a job as a gardener. "We couldn't say no to someone who'd gone to all that trouble," said his new employer. In Russia, meanwhile, Boris Shoshenko spent two years dressed as a woman in order to hold down his job as a personal secretary. In a bizarre re-run of the film *Some Like It Hot*, Mr Shoshenko, 31, of Moscow, had donned a wig and sock-filled bra in order to land the female-only job. "I was desperate for

work," he explained, "so I dressed up, went to the interview and somehow got the position." For the next two years Boris Shoshenko became Anna Shoshenko, talking in a high-pitched voice, going on girls-only nights out and even spending a romantic weekend with his/her boss. The truth finally emerged when Shoshenko got drunk at an office party and removed his breasts with a cry of "Now you seem them, now you don't!" "I was sorry," said his employer, "for she was a pert little thing." ♦

Above articles compiled by Paul Sussman in *The Big Issue*, London England's street-sold magazine.

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OUR  
VOICE  
APRIL 15  
1996



## VENDOR • Profile

# Disco Paul

When Paul was a child in school, he would spend his recesses meditating in a cardboard castle. He couldn't deal with the presence of other children. But now he has been selling **OUR VOICE** for the past three months and he's thrilled with the people he gets the chance to talk with everyday.

**P**aul has worked a variety of jobs in his life, ranging from construction labour, and assembly line, to being a bus boy, though he hasn't been able to find any type of employment in the past few years. He has needed help consistently from Social Services for what he feels is far too long.

"It's such a horrible trap. When you have nothing and no way to go anywhere, welfare is the only way to turn. I live in a human body and I have to give it food to keep it alive."

When Paul was growing up, his family moved around a great deal. He was born in Edmonton, but by the time he was three his salesman Father had the family on the go. This made Paul's school years quite difficult. He found it hard to interact with other kids, and felt as though he was being mistreated. Usually his only response came in the form of violence. He had to fight back.

"I guess I learned to stick up for myself, and be an individual, but the bad thing was that I got pretty good at being alone."

Paul ended his school career three credits short of graduating.

As the time passed, Paul grew tired of his solitude, and as all people do in life, he sought some form of acceptance.

BY MICHAEL WALTERS GLASEL



He found this acceptance in a group that never seems to turn anybody away. He began experimenting with different drugs and alcohol on a regular basis.

"When you're always getting pushed aside, you need somewhere to go. The drug scene can be very accepting. Eventually you need something."

After a while Paul managed to fight free from the type of life he found himself living. It became obvious to him that it was going nowhere and that it had to stop.

Even though he managed to break away from the perils of drug abuse, he rediscovered the unwanted solitude that had smothered him before.

Paul then realized that he needed something productive to fill his time. So along with working the

odd job to pay the bills, he busied himself with a new hobby. He spent the majority of his free time building model airplanes and rockets.

"It gave me tranquillity. Hobbies give you back some self-esteem. If you do something you're interested in, then chances are you'll do it well. I could feel good about something I guess."

Paul became very diligent in terms of his hobby. He insisted that everything be done as perfectly as he thought possible.

"I've learned not to leave failures unattended. If something doesn't work out, I'll always go back and make it better. I think I can apply this to my life."

He says this is why he decided to start selling **OUR VOICE**. He hopes to gain a good sense of business and responsibility, as well as learning to value and respect other people.

"I love selling the paper. It gives me the chance to talk to people all the time. There's always something happening and always something to see."

Paul, with his shy smile and quiet charm, sells his papers in front of the Kingsway Save-on Food Store. In only three months he's established a good number of regular customers.

"It's a great place to sell. The managers and the staff are always nice to me. They know I'm just doin' my job."

Paul one day hopes to finish the little high school he has left and then go on to university. He's interested in getting a science or engineering degree.

"I'd love to work for the space program. The concept of space is an eye opener for me. It's so unlimited and never ends. It's fascinating."

He's even had the good fortune of meeting Chekov the brilliant engineer from Star Trek, in Eatons Centre a year ago.

"Hey. I thought it was pretty cool." ❖

### The people who bring you **OUR VOICE**

This newspaper exists because of the efforts of the people who sell it to you on the street, the vendors. For our vendors **OUR VOICE** is a job that helps them to be independent and self-employed. Each issue we highlight one of our vendors in Vendor Profile to let you know a little bit about the people who bring you **OUR VOICE**. ❖

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Number \_\_\_\_\_  
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- I will vend only in areas that are authorized

All **OUR VOICE** vendors are required to wear an ID badge (contents above) and abide by a code of conduct. If you have any comments about our vendors, phone our distribution manager in your city (see page 5).



## LETTERS

# Our Voice is positive

Let me say that **Our Voice** is one of the most positive things that could have happened to Edmonton. Although I only moved to the city a few months ago to attend university, I have had a chance to meet some of the vendors selling **Our Voice** in the Whyte Ave. area where I live.

I often pass Steve Gavin or another gentleman on my way to work and they are unfailingly polite and ready to strike up a conversation. When I see these gentlemen trying to do something positive, it just breaks my heart to see people move across to the opposite sidewalk to avoid them. Everytime one of these men smiles and says "Merry Christmas" or "Have a nice day," I feel super because they sincerely mean it. They give these smiles freely and help to warm up a sometimes cold Edmonton winter.

Not only are these guys not sitting some-

where feeling sorry for themselves, they are out making this a better community. I feel bad that I do not have a lot to give but I can buy a copy of **Our Voice** and return the smile.

I love the "News of the World" and articles about how life really is for people who do not live the "middle class dream".

I would like to wish everyone good luck in the coming year. And to you vendors - especially those of you in the Old Strathcona area - remember that those smiles and nice comments you generously

give away do not go unnoticed! You have a joie de vivre that money cannot buy. ❖

**BOB JONSON  
EDMONTON**

*Editor's Note: Bob sent this nice note with his winning submission to the Pet Photo contest, thanks Bob.*

**Our Voice**  
The spare change newspaper

## The things they say!!!

(Who? Uh, you know, them!)

*"I never heard of anyone going up to Ingmar Bergman and saying 'Mr Bergman, why is it your films only deal with Swedish culture?'"*

*- Film director Spike Lee on accusations of inverse racism.*

*"The winner will always be the one with the brightest smile and the most hair. It is doubtful if there will ever be a swimsuit category, but there will never again be a bald president."*

*- Novelist Gore Vidal, on the American presidential election*

*"He might leave home for a bowl of spaghetti. For a woman? Never."*

*- Pavarotti's wife on her husband's alleged affair with another woman.*

*"Basketball players are smart enough to know you get HIV from unprotected sex, and we're not going to have unprotected sex on a basketball court."*

*- A US basketball player, asked if he was worried about playing against HIV-positive basketball legend, Magic Johnson.*



A salute to the Aboriginal Youth  
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# What you don't tell them, won't cost us money

# Our Voice

The spare change newspaper

**M**y choice is feed my kids or feed myself. I choose my kids."

That was what one woman said during the recent Quality of Life Commission hearings. Welfare was one thing they heard a lot about in their quest to find out how government cuts actually affect people.

"We are forced to do three loops this week, two handstands next week, four somersaults the week after, just for money that doesn't even buy enough food."

In its report, *Listen to me*, the Quality of Life Commission made many observations about how cuts have affected welfare in Alberta. "The system has become too rigid. It looks simply at dollars and how to save them. It has ceased to look at the people it serves and how to get them back on their feet."

A glaring example of this, and of the hard-heartedness in the welfare system, is the "no-tell policy". Welfare workers are not informing people who come for help about everything that they can receive. Officially, supplementary benefits such as child care, diapers, work clothes or phone hook up costs are available under Supports for Independence (SFI), or welfare. But in practice, welfare recipients are not told about these things, discouraged from applying for them, or even told they aren't available.

"I got a job. But I needed some work clothes. I was going to take a letter from my employer to my (social) worker, but was told to forget it because welfare doesn't pay for that anymore. I lost that job."

The report recommends that "communication between (the social) worker and client requires renewal...social workers' caseloads need to be reduced." There is close to breakdown in the delivery of social services, because of the cuts. "It has become virtually impossible for clients to talk with their workers... If they go in person, they wait for hours in a waiting room."

The overloading of the system, combined with policies like the "no-tell" policy, along with the plain fact that welfare cheques can't nearly cover the basics, means that some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our province are really suffering, and have suffered badly in their "quality of life".

## For Bread & Roses: Canadian women march for jobs & justice

**S**omebody has to do something, and somebody is. Women are marching on Ottawa. "In this country, increasing numbers of women are living in poverty. We are marching because women's dream of equality can never be realized in a society polarized between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'." That's what Sunera Thobani, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women said when she announced the Canada-wide women's march on Ottawa recently.

The politics of protest seems so wearying. Yes, it is an inspiring idea that women from across the country can march to the capital. This could be a protest that really will shake things up. But governments in this country have learned how to low-ball protests, no matter how large they are, no matter how angry the people are. Finally, there seems to be no way to bend the government's ear and really make them listen. Will they ignore yet another protest. Not if it's big enough.

The March will begin May 14 in Vancouver. Four caravans will travel across the country and women will join the March at points along the way. There will be rallies, street theatre, concerts and women marching. It will come to a head June 15 in Ottawa.

The nation-wide scale of the Women's March inspires hope. The cause is noble, 1996 being marked by the United Nations as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. And the women's



demands are no more than promised by politicians in the last federal election: job creation for women, a national child care program, feminist services against male violence, and a Canada Social Security Act.

We hope this march will make them listen. Somebody's doing something, at last. ♦

KEITH WILEY

### Thank you contributors

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# What is your vision for human services in our community?

The Muttart Foundation in Edmonton is spearheading a discussion on human services with a new project, "Edmonton 2005: A Place For All".

"We appear to be at a crossroads. Maintaining the status quo does not appear possible. What does the future hold for human service activity?", asks Anne Smith of the Foundation. "How do we continue to build on the strong tradition of caring in our community?"

The Foundation is challenging everyone to think about these questions and contribute to the the answers. They are seeking to generate community discussion and action around a vision for the community and human service sector.

The Foundation has published an initial discussion paper, prepared by 18 people active in

Edmonton's service sector. It outlines core values as well as one possible model for the delivery of services in the future. The Foundation is looking for responses to the paper, new ideas for discussion and is even offering assistance groups or organizations who want to meet to discuss the questions.

"Hopefully, the project is the beginning of a process that actively involves community members in shaping and directing human service activity," says Smith.

The project is running until 1997 and will end up with a collection of information and material that will be made publicly available.

For more information about Edmonton 2005 you can contact Anne Smith at The Muttart Foundation, 425-9616. ♦

## "Quotation" Quiz

BY L.R.C.



"YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE HIM DRINK."

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# Hunger on Campus

## Students at University of Calgary have an option

BY BENJAMIN MALIM EVANS

Jane works two jobs most of the time, has a busy university schedule and very little time off. She describes the exhaustion so typical of many students around this time of the year,

"It's difficult sometimes. You are baby-sitting, taking care of a household, taking care of bills - it gets so hard to get all the school-work done, and frankly I'm just getting drained."

It is this feeling of hitting the end of your rope financially and emotionally that turns many students to the food bank.

Another woman demonstrated the difficulty of being a single mom; "I don't mind so much about myself, that is no big deal, but my son has to eat right. I have to make sure he gets a good diet."

When people consider the problem of hunger in our society, they have a tendency to stereotype the sorts of people involved with the issue. The homeless, the unemployed, the "down-and-out" members of society are regarded as the only people faced with hunger issues. In fact, the problem of hunger is far more widespread than most people realize, reaching all the way to the rich and lofty campus of the university.

People usually assume university students to be, if not abundantly wealthy, at least able to make ends meet and have a few dollars left over for a beer or two. But this vision of the modern student is no longer accurate. The demographics of the university population have changed wildly over the past few years, and this changing face of the modern student body has resulted in many more struggling students.

Students themselves have changed. The numbers of returning students, single parents, and foreign students have all increased. These people are prime candidates for food bank use. Additionally, the increase in expenses and the decrease in loan availability has affected students who would have not needed much assistance in the past. Student loans are no longer meeting the real needs of many students, and more and more students are working to support themselves while going to school. They are people employed like any other, and yet have a massive expense called "university" to pay for. This situation is more difficult than it might seem - imagine having \$6000 disappear

from your yearly paycheck! After all the bills are paid, the amount of money left over for food can be surprisingly small, especially around the end of term when all the loan money has run out.

One of the main problems for many food bank users is the stigma attached to food banks, which is linked to the stigma attached to being a student. Students are expected, and expect one another, to

be of a certain level of affluence, and using a food bank seems to go against that expectation. Younger students are often in a position of being away from home and desire a feeling of independence. Using the food bank can serve as a reminder that one is not in control, not being what one is expected to be. Jane summed up this problem very nicely; "I resent that because of the way I dress, because I have an imagination, because I have dignity and a little creativity that I must be rich, but really that is what it takes to get out of this type of situation."

Awareness of the problem is growing, as is support from within the university. A campus food bank at the University of Calgary was established in 1993 in liaison with the Interfaith food bank, and since that time it has grown in leaps and bounds. Between May 1994 and April 1995, 253 people were fed, 97 of whom were children. As the foodbank grows larger, so too does the number of people who use it, and so too does the level of acceptance in the minds of other students. Many club events on campus ask for a non-perishable food donation at the door, and support from students and staff alike has been more than generous.

More importantly, the food bank is working. Mike Zavitz, the coordinator of the project, is continually optimistic, continually helpful, and continually working to expand the bank, raise funds, and raise awareness of hunger problems on campus. And there are very, very few complaints. The food available is healthy, the other items available are quite comprehensive, the support network strong, the staff extremely friendly and unpatronizing, and in general the whole bank is running very effectively. They might even get you a cab home with all your groceries.

Which makes one think that, if one has to deal with hunger, the University of Calgary campus might not be a bad place to do it. ♦



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# OUR VOICE PET PHOTO

8

OUR  
VOICE  
APRIL 15  
1996

**P**eople love to show off their friends, their pets, and the response to the Our Voice Pet Photo Contest was phenomenal. We were delighted to have nearly sixty photos of dogs, cats, horses, and birds sent in. They were cute, moving, sweet and charming photos. Choosing the winners was tough for our judges. They wanted photos with feeling, photos that would publish well, and photos that were attention-getting. Finally they had to choose winners and here are the ones they picked:

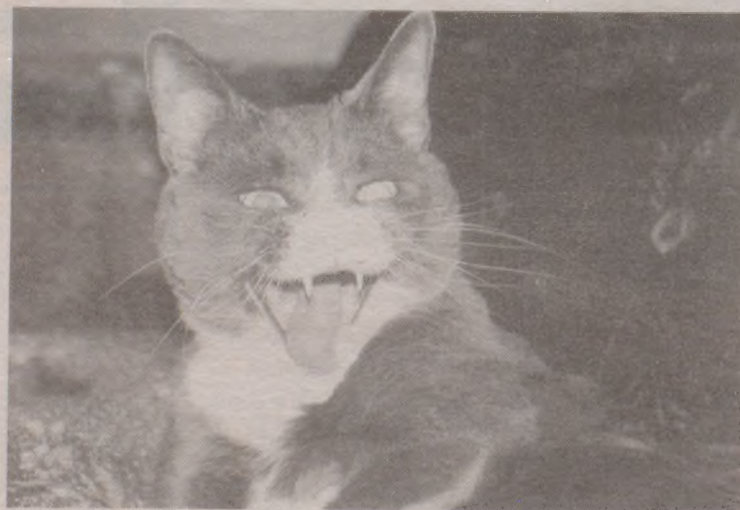
## The Winners



### BEST OVERALL PRIZE

Sandra Stevenson of Leduc sent in a stunning photo, poster quality, of Shetland Sheep Dog, Geordie, and Schnauzer, Whiskers, that the judges picked for the front page photo of the newspaper.

**Prize:** A 20 pound bag of dog food from Bonnie Doon Veterinary Clinic



### LIVELIEST FACE PRIZE

Twyla McCann of Edmonton wrote: "I was very lucky to capture this moment of my cat's day. Although he looks psychotic and wild, Joe is a sweet cat who is best friends with my 16 month-old daughter."

**Prize:** An 8 lb bag of 100% natural, no-byproducts, colour or chemicals cat food delivered by Riplees Ranch.



### MOST ACTION

Christine Benteau of Calgary won with this great photo of her 4 year old dog, Roger, playing with his best friend named Chelsea. They are playing almost like imminent death to us.

**Prize:** A Special T-shirt from the

Thanks very much to all contest participants

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### MOST NOSTALGIC PRIZE

Mrs Isabella K. Collin sent in a scratchy old black and white print that is absolutely charming. "An old memory of Peggy, our best dog in the world," Mrs Collin writes. "She gave my sister and I joy warmth and great love for years. I hope this photo will bring a surprise to my sister." Lillian and Isabella had this photo taken with Peggy in 1944.

**Prize:** a \$25 Gift Certificate from Petland Bonnie Doon Mall



# OTO CONTEST



## TION PRIZE

gary won the Most Action Prize  
f her 4 month-old Rottweiler,  
est friend, a Smooth Fox Terrier,  
re playing in fun but it looked  
th to us.

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d natural pet foods. ❖



## PRETTIEST CAT PRIZE

Shauma Lee Magotiaux of Calgary had to win a prize for this photo of her most unusually coloured cat, Jasper.

**Prize:** A Special T-shirt from the Edmonton SPCA



## NICEST COUPLE PRIZE

Bob Jonson of Edmonton sent in this sweet picture of Tiffy, a miniature Sheltie and dove Paloma, in the backyard. Bob writes that Tiffy is trilingual and responds to commands in English, French and Spanish.

**Prize:** A Club Pet Membership with discounts, and special savings, value of \$19.99 from Petland Bonnie Doon Mall



## BEST BABY-SITTING BIRD PRIZE

Kevin and Candace Green, of Sherwood Park, sent in this one of their cockatoo, Idaho, hobnobbing with Tiffany who was only 5 months old at the time.

**Prize:** Coffee and Desert for Two from Cheesecake and More 4211-106 Street

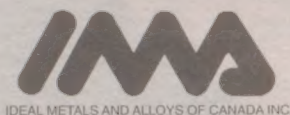
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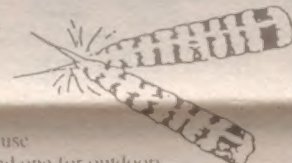


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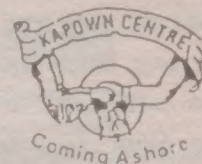
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OUR  
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APRIL 15  
1996



BY MARJORIE BENCZ

# The Kleptomaniac Cat

From the time Sam arrived in our home, we knew that she wasn't a typical cat. Sam, short for Samantha, was an anniversary gift from our daughters. (Ya, you have the picture. My daughters bought the cat as a gift because if they had asked for a cat, we would have said no!)

Sam was purchased from a local pet store and her papers said that she was nine weeks old. She was very petite and friendly. When she came in contact with anyone, she would immediately begin purring. She was just thrilled to meet our dog.

Within 24 hours of arriving in our home, Sam began displaying dysfunctional behaviour. She began "nursing" on our dog, Sara. She would cuddle up to the dog and begin sucking on Sara's fur. Our dog, who has never had puppies but truly loves cats would patiently tolerate her role as surrogate mother. The vet said that this activity was unique but not harmful. After several weeks, the dog decided that Sam no longer required this type of support and weaned the cat. They are still friends



and spend countless hours curled up on the couch together.

After Sam was weaned from Sara, she took up a different pastime. She began taking small items. I left my earrings on

a coffee table in the evening and the next morning one would be gone. My youngest daughter's small toys began disappearing too. My watch vanished. One day, I caught Sam attempting to

remove my contact case from a shelf in the washroom. Pens, socks and pencils are all fair game for Sam the kleptomaniac cat.

When I cleaned my house, I would find most items stockpiled in one of two places...tucked under the corner of the couch or in a planter.

At one point it was obvious that Sam was making routine trips into the basement ceiling. I must admit that I was concerned about what she may be taking up there with her.

Our whole family began to be aware of what they were leaving out. Maybe we became better housekeepers for it. My eleven year old's room is very tidy now as all of her small toys are in her closet.

As I write this article, Sam walks by with a small stuffed toy in her mouth. I ask her if I can take it. It is one of her toys, so I return it to her.

I don't know why she chose to nurse on our dog or why she is a kleptomaniac. Maybe she was taken away from her mother at too young age. Maybe she has a chemical imbalance. The vet says that she is a healthy cat. Maybe I just need to get a good counselor for her!!! ♦

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# The next supper could be just like the Last Supper

BY ANDY RAHCHARAN

**T**ired from the days running around, trying to survive, I wondered where I was going to find my next meal. I stopped by the Men's Hostel for lunch. There they told me it was my last until I get a note from a social worker. I don't have a social worker. As much as I'm trying to stay out of that system, I keep getting shoved right back into it.

It's close to supper time and I can feel my stomach doing its thing. Then I remembered a place called King's Kitchen. I'd heard they serve lunch and supper for people who are hungry. Lunch is usually around noon, and supper could be anywhere from 5 to 6:30. I think I'll give it a try.

By the name, I'd guess it has something to do with the church. They say the Lord provides. With a little faith, and a lot of hope for a meal, I made my way out to King's Kitchen. It's a way, 155 Street and Stony Plain Road. I got there at 5:30 and found the door locked. Someone heard me at the door and came to let me in. I waited in the doorway, for a welcoming word. The preacher lady talked across the room. She didn't want me to come in because I was late. I had to be there at 5. Totally interrupting her service, I spoke back across the room, explaining, "I didn't know that, this is my first time here." I was

starting to feel angry, thinking this woman was going to turn me away without any supper. But she changed her mind and let me in.

I sat at the table, set for 12, but with lots of empty places. I was still angry with this woman and I stared at her listening to her preach. Do I have a right to be angry? I guess not. It's my own fault for being hungry in the first place. She was preaching about asking for things, believing that you will receive them. It really hit home.

At the end of the preaching we got to eat. Thank the Lord for that.

I decided to ask, "Why were you so quick to turn me away?" "We start at 5 and no one enters after that. We get some drunks that come stumbling in here and we don't like that," she answered. "Do you know when Jesus is coming?" I asked. "I don't," she replied. "So what if He came in late?" "Jesus is never late," she said.

I left it at that but I pondered; "If you don't know when he's coming or when he's supposed to be here, how can you tell if he's late or not? I was thankful for the food in my stomach, but it doesn't mean I have to agree with her. Then I noticed something, and it felt really strange. As I sat there in the chair, one of 12 at the table, it felt like the Last Supper.

*From the inner city cowboy. Keep on ridin'.* ♦

Brad M. Cranshaw  
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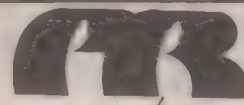
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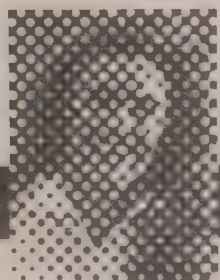
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# Emily

BY ALLISON KYDD



VIA THE GREYHOUND BUS

## Your husband is real worried

12

**T**he story this far: When Emily's bus leaves without her, she thinks she's had it for good now. Until she meets warm-hearted Lil. Turns out Lil's married to a native elder named Joseph, and Joseph says he knows her people.

It was the end of Lil's shift; Emily was having her second of coffee, and Lillian had just sat down to join her, when Joseph appeared beside them. He had that slow, quiet way of moving that Emily remembered. Her father used to move like that; her cousin Arnold used to move like that. She felt a different kind of sadness just remembering them like this. They were the first two men she'd loved. And whatever had happened that was bad - her father's beatings when he was drunk, the way she and the little ones'd all had to stay away from him then... and how her cousin was an angry person too and sometimes hurt her, and how he left her without saying good-bye - she still ached inside for the loss of them. She'd known their gentleness

too. When she was little, her father's hands seemed big and safe cupping hers, lifting her when she fell as she stumbled eagerly along after him.

Because she was the first of his children, he used to take her walking in the bush. He taught her how to see the twigs and branches, how they grew, and how to hurry without losing sight of the world around her. He showed her how to find the killdeer's nest in the long grass and watch the nestlings without frightening the parent birds away.

He even showed her the jewel stones in the water of the little creek, the magic stones which hid their colours when she tried to steal them from the water.

When Emily was old enough to go walking herself, she used to hurry back to her father with the treasure she'd found. Once she carried a dead bird all the way from the creek to the house, its body stiff and brittle, with its little twig feet sticking up in the air, its perfect feathery head sunk into its still soft breast.

He told her about death then, how the spirit leaves the body, and showed her how to place the body with respect and mark the spot.

That was when she was little, before there were too many children to feed and no game to hunt or fish in the river. When the government money came, there was always a party, but the money was always gone too fast. And then there was the drinking. That was what she remembered the most.

Until today, she'd almost forgotten what it was like before her father was drinking so much that they were all afraid of him, even her mother.

Somehow this man, this stranger, Joseph, was making her remember.

In the end, it was the drink that killed Emily's father. And they hadn't let her see her mother, not any of his people be with him in the hospital when he was dying. Emily'd wondered how his spirit was able to find its way with no friends or family around to show

respect to his body.

But she didn't cry too much for him. It was the time when her thoughts were full of her cousin Arnold Broken Wing. When she was giving him the love she'd once had for her father. Until he too went away from her.

Everyone always went away from her.

"How you doing now, young lady? Not mad, I hope."

The gentle, gravelly voice that had made her remember all those long-ago things was bringing her back again.

Emily made herself smile in spite of the sadness and shook her head.

She saw that they'd been watching her, him and Lil. Joseph had his arm around his woman's shoulders. Lil was looking over the brim of her coffee cup and sipping as if it was all her. Emily realized they must be wanting to go home.

"I'm fine, thanks. Thanks very much. You don't have to wait." Emily hadn't had all that much

practise in being grateful to people, so she wasn't very good at saying it. "You know how to get to Sakimay? Is there a bus? Got anybody to phone?"

That was Joseph. Emily shook her head. "Not going there right now," she said. "I've first got to get to the city."

"Damn, I almost forgot," Lil let out a gasp, "You have to phone Greyhound. Come with me."

Again she led Emily to the little office in the back of the service station. She searched among the scraps of paper stuck on pegs above the desk for the right telephone number, found it and handed it to Emily.

"But..." said Emily.

"Go ahead," said Lil. "You can worry about the charges when you got some money to pay them with."

The voice at the other end seemed unexpectedly brisk for that time of the morning.

"Ma'am, we certainly did find a purse and a nice ladies' leather coat on the Winnipeg coach. They were here on the desk ready to

go to lost and found when we opened this morning. So we phoned first thing."

"Phoned?"

"Your husband's real worried."

"Husband?"

"Your I.D. had your number."

So we phoned Toronto... but you'd better phone right away too or he'll be calling the R.C.M.P. I thinks you've gotten yourself frozen out there somewhere."

So Jeremy was worried about her. Emily tried to think that through.

"You still there, ma'am?"

"Oh, yes, thanks, but I'm not sure what to do. I don't have any ticket until I get my purse."

"There's another coach coming in from Winnipeg this morning, be where you are about ten o'clock. The driver's already expecting you."

Again Emily struggled over her thanks.

"No problem, Miss, just glad we found you. And don't forget to phone your husband."

Emily put the receiver back in its cradle. When she turned around,

she noticed Lil and Joseph had their coats on as if they were ready to leave.

"You sure you're going to be all right here?" asked Lil. "I told Darlene that you're a friend of mine and to keep the coffee coming. But you could come out to our place for a couple of hours."

"I'll be all right," said Emily. She didn't think she could handle any more of this kindness.

Joseph held out his hand. She saw that he was giving her a small white business card with a strange drawing in the corner. It reminded her of when she was in school and first learning to use a compass. The writing said Joseph Morrisette, First Nations elder and native guide, Moose Mountain Medicine Wheel. He shrugged modestly.

"This here's Indian country too," he said. "This town was even named for an Indian chief during the rebellion. Got caught in the middle, the mounties one side, Riel and his people on the other. But didn't take sides, only wanted peace."

"Moosomin..." murmured Emily. It seemed like she'd heard that story before as well.

Lillian pulled gently on Joseph's sleeve.

"I know what'll happen if I let you get started. We'll be here all morning, and it's time for us to be getting home to the kids. Can't have Sharleen late for the school bus again. One of these times it won't wait. Besides, we have the feeling we'll be hearing from our friend Emily again."

"Thanks for everything," said Emily. The world seemed to have changed a lot in the last few hours.

What'd they mean, they'd be hearing from her? Maybe they were right, but right now she had to sit down and do some serious thinking.

Maybe that'd been the problem in her life. She'd rushed into things before she knew where it was she was going. Maybe this time it really could be different.

End of installment twelve; to be continued. ♦

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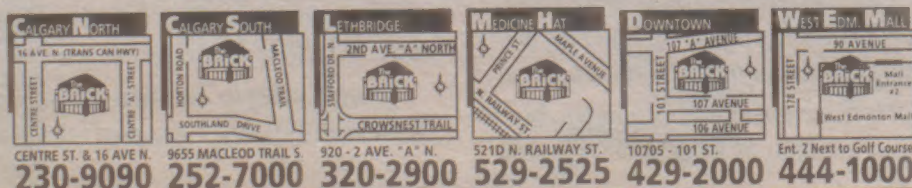
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## MOVIE • Review

# There's more to life than money...

The movie is *Fargo*, and the scene goes something like this: the sheriff is awakened by the phone. She gets up, her husband finds some breakfast, and she has to boost her patrol car before cruising to the scene of the crime. Upon arrival, she has to deal with her inexperience dealing with homicides, morning sickness and the challenge of walking on/through a few feet of partially frozen snow. You haven't seen this before. And I'm not sure if you'll ever see it again. *Fargo* is, quite simply, fresh; the setting (North Dakota and Minnesota in the dead of winter) the characters, dialogue, and plot are all unique. It's the true story of a Minneapolis car salesman who hires a couple of thugs to have his wife kidnapped. In return, he expects to collect a million dollars, courtesy of his father-in-law's hoard, to pay off debts. What he gets is trouble. And lots of it. Some aspects of *Fargo* will not appeal to everyone.

First off, it's written, produced, and directed by the Coen brothers (Barton Fink, Blood Simple). They have a reputation for making "weird" films with limited popular followings. *Fargo* will, I hope, change that impression. It is more accessible, believable, and is more entertaining than earlier Coen efforts. The plot is bizarre and fairly complex, but it makes sense.

The plot is bizarre and fairly complex, but it makes sense. And, best of all, you never know

what to expect. There are no box-office names among the cast, but that only serves to heighten the impression that *Fargo* is peopled with real-life mid-west characters. It should be noted, however, that as the thugs shoot their way across the prairie they leave a number of ordinary people dead in their wake. The result can be disturbing, to say the least.

*Fargo* is, ultimately, about violence. Not the bloody variety that is the subject of so many films produced in recent years. Rather, its focus is the kind of single-minded, self-centred, exclusionary violence most of us practice every day of

our lives. This type of violence is, quite simply, our willingness to do most anything for money. Granted, the characters in *Fargo* do tend to push the limits. But that doesn't take away from the fact that we all spend considerable energy attaining and protecting our

personal stockpiles. Some are more successful than others, but the goal remains the same: more - more money, more things, more prestige. When was the last time you heard someone say that they earn enough money to supply their needs, and that they don't want anything else - they have enough. In the final minutes of *Fargo*, the fearless sheriff delivers a soliloquy for the benefit of a perpetrator she has safely locked away in the back of her patrol car: "What's it all for? 'What's it all for? For money."

There's more to life than money, you know. It's a beautiful day. I just don't understand." ♦



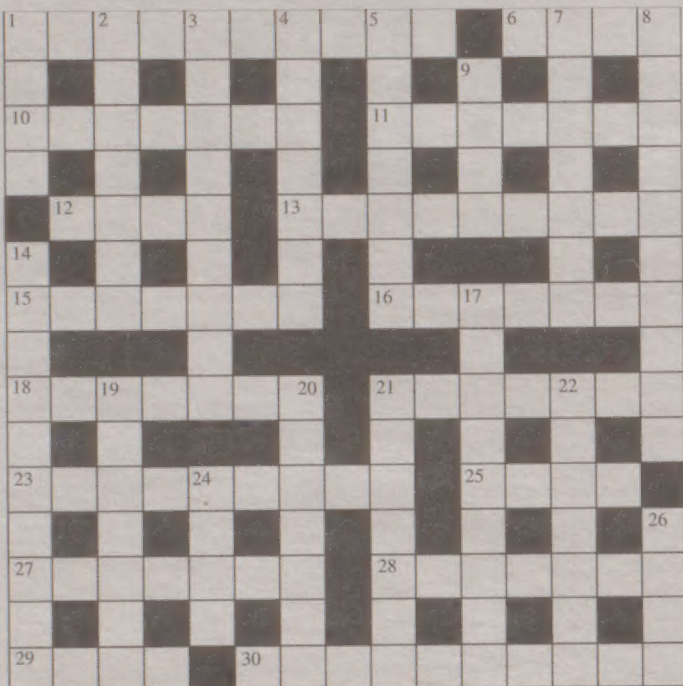


# CROSSWORD • Puzzle 30

## ACROSS

- 1 Stupidity (15)
- 9 A woman you're in love with (9)
- 10 Studious part of the eye (5)
- 11 Boats paddled with double-bladed oars (6)
- 12 Mythical horselike beasts (8)
- 14 Sorrow (10)
- 16 To put up (4)
- 18 To make a big fuss (4)
- 19 Latin: the genius of a place (6,4)
- 21 Ending a mission prematurely (8)
- 22 To put an end to something (4,2)
- 25 Covered in trailing woody vines (5)
- 26 Old Spanish (9)
- 27 An executive 'bails out' with one (6,9)

BY SUSAN ANDREWS



## DOWN

- 1 Hallowe'en practice (5,2,8)
- 2 Mediterranean country (5)
- 3 Stunning, a.k.o. (8)
- 4 Spirit (4)
- 5 Identified a disease by symptoms (10)
- 6 To show (6)
- 7 Artificial international language (9)
- 8 What pushy salesmen meet (5,10)
- 13 Medical apprenticeship (10)
- 15 Article written by a publisher (9)
- 17 Private, mystic (8)
- 20 Slang: plain, unexciting food (6)
- 23 French soldier (5)
- 24 Citizens' Band user (4)

► Puzzle 30 answers will be published in the May 1 issue of *Our Voice*.

### Answers to April 1 Crossword #29

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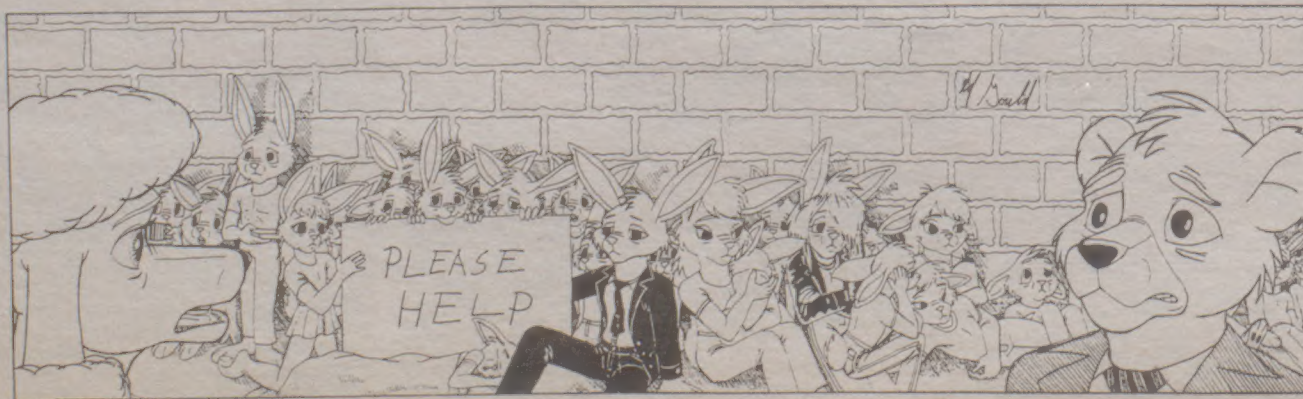
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# Canadian Limbo Queen offers challenge in local hotel

BY SHELLEY KNAPP

There is a new "Champion" in the city of Edmonton. Cora-Lee Ann, 25, a life-long Edmontonian is the Limbo Queen of Canada. She has limboed as low as 7 3/4 inches (the height of a long-neck beer bottle). Cora says the world record is six inches held by a man from Trinidad.

She tours across country with her limbo show and offers \$1000 to anyone that can beat her. "I like to call it an enter at your own risk contest."

It's free to enter and Cora-Lee gives out t-shirts and drinks to the contestants.

"It's a lot of fun and people really seem to enjoy it. There are only three rules. They get two tries. If they take off their shoes they must take off their socks. And they must start and end on their feet."

She uses the original Chubby Checker tune, "Limbo Rock" and as many as 30 people sign up for the challenge.

Cora-Lee Ann was at the York Hotel on March 27. Ten people went as low as they could go but no one took home the \$1,000. Phyllis Englund, night manager at the York says Cora is a natural talent.

"It's something totally different. Cora came and did a show a year ago and she really had them enthused. Last time she used a pool cue and two beer bottles."

Cora-Lee Ann warns people if they don't want to hurt themselves they probably shouldn't enter.

But Cora makes it look easy and says she just started for the fun of it.

"I didn't realize that what I was doing was incredi-

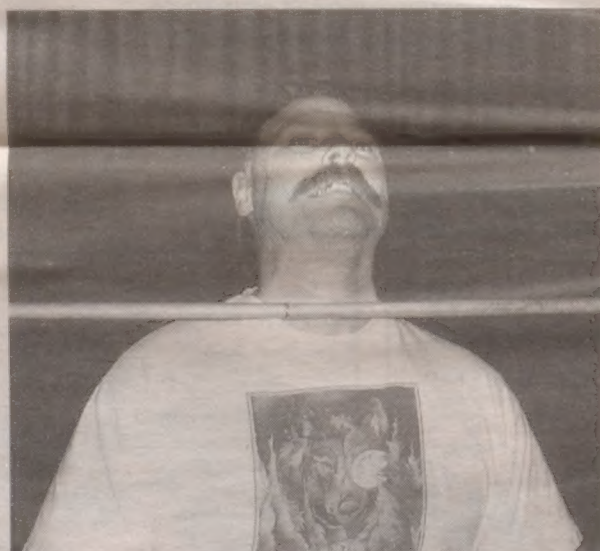
ble. People in the office would pay me money because they thought what I was doing was amazing. I mean they went ballistic over it."

Now agents book her in lounges across the country. "I was at the Showgirl Cabaret in Montreal when the Hawaiian limbo team was there and they wouldn't even come up on the stage."

"They said they could only go to 10 inches."

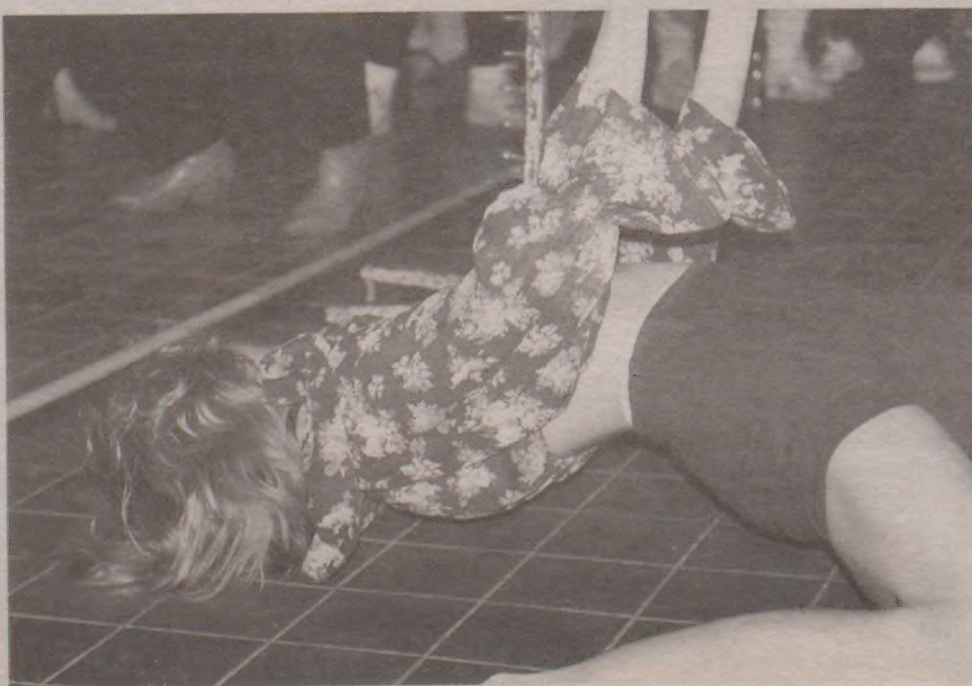
Once a year Cora does a show with 30 to 60 other dancers as a fundraiser for the Help Fill a Dream Foundation. A charity that fulfils the wishes of terminally ill children.

"I'm just trying to give something back to the children. Last year we raised around \$9,000. That's enough to fill the wishes of two-and-a-half children." ♦



But it's not so easy

Lower, lower down to pop bottle height. Canada's Limbo Queen Cora-Lee Ann makes it look easy!



Michelle won the contest, second to Cora-Lee Ann.